

In the Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A platelet-like pigment whose particles have a length of from 2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ , a width of from 2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 2  $\mu\text{m}$  and a thickness of from 50 nm to 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$  and a ratio of length to thickness of at least 2 : 1, the particles having a core of a metallicity reflecting material having two substantially parallel faces, the distance between which is the shortest axis of the core, comprising

(a) on one parallel face of the core, an  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer wherein  $0.95 < y \leq 2.0$ , wherein the thickness of the  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer (a) is from 20 to 500 nm.

(b) on the  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer, an  $\text{SiO}_x$  layer wherein  $0.03 \leq x \leq 0.95$ , and

(c) on the  $\text{SiO}_x$  layer, an  $\text{SiO}_z$  layer, wherein  $0.95 < z \leq 2.0$

wherein the metallicity reflecting material is selected from Ag, Al, Au, Cu, Cr, Ge, Mo, Ni, Ti, Zn, alloys thereof, graphite,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{MoS}_2$  and the thickness of the core is from 20 to 100 nm.

2. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 1, comprising

(a) on one parallel face of the core, an  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer, wherein  $0.95 < y \leq 1.80$ ,

(b) on the  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer, an  $\text{SiO}_x$  layer wherein  $0.03 \leq x \leq 0.95$ , and

(c) on the  $\text{SiO}_x$  layer, an  $\text{SiO}_z$  layer, wherein  $1.0 < z \leq 2.0$ .

3-4. **(cancelled)**

5. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the  $\text{SiO}_x$  layer (b) is from 5 to 200 nm.

6. **(cancelled)**

7. **(currently amended)** A method for producing the pigment according to claim 1, comprising the following steps:

- a) vapor-deposition of a separating agent onto a carrier to produce a separating agent layer,
- b) vapor-deposition of an Al layer onto the separating agent layer,
- c) vapor-deposition of an  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer onto the Al layer,
- d) vapor-deposition of an  $\text{SiO}_x$  layer onto the  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer, wherein  $0.95 \leq y \leq 1.80$ ,
- e) ~~optionally~~, vapor-deposition of an  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer onto the  $\text{SiO}_x$  layer,

- f) dissolution of the separating agent layer in a solvent,
  - g) separation of the coated aluminum flakes from the solvent.
8. **(previously presented)** A pigment obtained by the method of claim 7.
9. **(previously presented)** A composition comprising a pigment according to claim 1.
10. **(previously presented)** A paint, textile, ink-jet printing, cosmetic, coating, plastic, or printing ink composition or a glaze for ceramics and glass comprising a pigment according to claim 1.
11. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 1, wherein  $0.05 \leq x \leq 0.5$ .
12. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 2, wherein  $1.0 \leq y \leq 1.80$ , and  $1.4 \leq z \leq 2.0$ .
13. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the core is from 40 to 60 nm.
14. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the  $\text{SiO}_x$  layer (b) is from 5 to 100 nm.
15. **(cancelled)**
16. **(previously presented)** A pigment according claim 1, wherein the thickness of the  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer (a) is from 100 to 500
17. **(cancelled)**
18. **(previously presented)** A pigment according claim 5, wherein the thickness of the  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer (a) is from 20 to 500 nm.
19. **(previously presented)** A method according to claim 7, wherein  $1.0 \leq y \leq 1.80$ .
20. **(cancelled)**